

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 05946 011542Z  
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /046 W

-----012245 092915 /66

R 011533Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0129

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0374

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 05946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CONTACTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN  
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: A. PARIS 04990; B. DEPT.'S A-594; C. EC

BRUSSELS 01662; D. ROME 3076

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO PARIS AFTER SEVERAL DAYS  
ON THE ROAD, FO INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ANTOINE  
LAVAL PROVIDED HIS ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION ON  
CONTACTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN COMMUNIST  
COUNTRIES.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, LAVAL VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION THAT ICFTU (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED) HAS GROWN  
INCREASINGLY MORE CONVINCED THAT ITS AFFILIATES'  
BILATERAL CONTACTS WERE DOING NOTHING EITHER TO  
ADVANCE LEGITIMATE TRADE UNIONISM OR MODIFY BEHAVIOR  
OF COMMUNIST GROUPS; BUT WERE GIVING THOSE GROUPS  
BOTH A FORUM IN WHICH TO CARRY ON THEIR POLITICAL  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 05946 011542Z

ACTIVITIES, AND AN AURA OF UNDESERVED LEGITIMACY. HE  
FURTHER VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS MOUNTING CONCERN OVER  
THESE TRENDS HAD LED TO AN ICFTU POLICY STATEMENT ON  
SUCH CONTACTS. HE THEN BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED THE ICFTU  
POSITION AS ALREADY REPORTED REF. B.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE FO'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND

THE UPCOMING GENEVA MEETING ON WORK ENVIRONMENT (SEE REF. A.), LAVAL COMMENTED WITH HUMOR, THAT THERE WAS A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THAT MEETING MET THE ICFTU'S CRITERIA. IT WAS, HE SAID, A MATTER OF "INTERPRETATION" AS TO WHETHER IT WAS BEING HELD UNDER ILO AUSPICES, OR MERELY THROUGH THAT ORGANIZATION'S GOOD OFFICES.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, LAVAL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED THAT ANY MORE NATIONAL CENTERS WOULD JOIN IN BOYCOTTING THE GENEVA MEETING (IT WAS "TOO LATE"), HE DID FEEL THAT THE FO'S STAND HAD FOUND ECHOES ELSEWHERE, AND MENTIONED BRITAIN AND DENMARK. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT EXPAND ON WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT HE FOUND IN BRITAIN, HE DID DISCUSS, AT LENGTH, THE STRONG VIEWS THAT DANISH LO PRESIDENT NIELSEN HELD ON THE SUBJECT OF CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST GROUPS. LAVAL THEN OBSERVED THAT HE FELT THAT AT LONG LAST, THE TIDE WAS BEGINNING TO TURN IN THE FAVOR OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED TREATING THE COMMUNIST GROUPS AS COLLEAGUES; AND THAT HE WAS GROWING OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE.

RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST OFFICIALS, LABOR UNIONS, DEBRIEFINGS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SIL  
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**Reference:** 77 PARIS 4990, 77 STATE A-594  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Subject:** CONTACTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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